
ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR “EXPEDITED” RETAKES OF STANDARDS OF LEARNING TESTS IN GRADES 3 THROUGH 8

Resolution Number 2015-01

March 26, 2015

WHEREAS, the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, commonly referred to as the *Standards of Accreditation*, provide opportunities for high school students who meet criteria adopted by the Board of Education to have expedited retakes of Standards of Learning (SOL) tests to earn verified credits;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education originally established criteria for students eligible for “emergency” retakes of Standards of Learning tests in [Resolution Number 2000-11](#) adopted on September 28, 2000;

WHEREAS, the criteria adopted by the Board of Education for “emergency” retakes of SOL tests were subsequently set forth in the *Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, which was adopted by the Board of Education on October 25, 2006 and amended by the Board of Education on January 13, 2011;

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2013, the Board of Education approved an amendment to the *Standards of Accreditation* to provide opportunities for students who meet criteria adopted by the Board for an expedited retake of a Standards of Learning test in grades three through eight; however, the Board subsequently withdrew the proposed *Standards of Accreditation* in favor of conducting a more comprehensive review;

WHEREAS, Governor McAuliffe proposed legislation in the 2015 General Assembly Session to expand opportunities for expedited retakes of Standards of Learning tests to students in grades three through eight;

WHEREAS, HOUSE BILL 1490, introduced by Delegate Habeeb, and SENATE BILL 874, introduced by Senator Cosgrove were approved by the 2015 General Assembly and signed by Governor McAuliffe and provide as follows: That the Board of Education shall promulgate regulations to provide the same criteria for eligibility for an expedited retake of any Standards of Learning test, with the exception of the writing Standards of Learning tests, to each student regardless of grade level or course;

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Education has determined that funds are available to extend expedited retake opportunities to students in grades three through eight during the current 2014-2015 school year before such regulations are promulgated;

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board of Education to provide the opportunity for eligible students in grades three through eight, with affirmative parental consent (“opt-in”), to voluntarily participate in the expedited retake of Standards of Learning tests based on certain criteria established by the Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education that local school divisions may offer the opportunity during the 2014-2015 school year for the expedited retake of Standards of Learning tests in grades three through eight, with the exception of the writing Standards of Learning tests, to students who meet the following criteria:

The student must

- 1) Have passed the course associated with the test; and
- 2) One of the following:
 - Failed the test by a narrow margin; or
 - Failed the test by any margin and have extenuating circumstances that would warrant retesting; or
 - Did not sit for the regularly scheduled test for legitimate reasons.

The “narrow margin” criteria shall be defined as a scaled score of 375-399.

In addition, the following conditions shall apply:

- 1) If a school division elects to offer expedited retakes of Standards of Learning tests, parents of eligible students shall be notified (a) of the opportunity to retake the test(s); (b) that the decision not to retake any or all of the test(s) will not impact their child’s grade or academic record and (c) of the opt-in requirement.
- 2) Prior to any additional testing, school divisions shall obtain and thereafter maintain documentation of affirmative parental consent and permission for their child to take an expedited retake.

Adopted in Richmond, Virginia, This Twenty-sixth Day of March 2015.

Signature:

Christian N. Braunlich, President
Board of Education

Adopted in the Minutes of the Virginia Board of Education
March 26, 2015